

## Message Text

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43

ACTION A-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 OPR-02 PRS-01 SSO-00

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R 091225Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8635

WHITE HOUSE

UNCLAS PARIS 07005

DEPT FOR A AND WE, VICE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE FOR  
CAPTAIN HOWE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (NELSON A. ROCKEFELLER) FR

SUBJECT: DEPARTURE STATEMENT

1. MR. MINISTER, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

2. ON LEAVING FRANCE, I AM REMINDED OF THOMAS  
JEFFERSON'S TRIBUTE TO THIS COUNTRY UPON HIS DEPARTURE  
FROM PARIS IN 1789. "I CANNOT LEAVE THIS GREAT AND  
GOOD COUNTRY," JEFFERSON WROTE, "WITHOUT EXPRESSING MY  
SENSE OF ITS PRE-EMINENCE OF CHARACTER AMONG THE  
NATIONS OF THE EARTH. A MORE BENEVOLENT PEOPLE I HAVE  
NEVER KNOWN, NOR GREATER WARMTH AND DEVOTEDNESS IN THEIR  
SELECT FRIENDSHIPS. THEIR KINDNESS AND ACCOMMODATION  
TO STRANGERS IS UNPARALLELED, AND THE HOSPITALITY OF  
PARIS IS BEYOND ANYTHING I HAD CONCEIVED TO BE  
PRACTICABLE IN A LARGE CITY...THE POLITENESS OF THE  
GENERAL MANNERS, THE EASE AND VIVACITY OF THEIR  
CONVERSATION, GIVE A CHARM TO THEIR SOCIETY TO BE FOUND  
NOWHERE ELSE." TO MY KNOWLEDGE MR. JEFFERSON NEVER RAN  
FOR OFFICE IN FRANCE. BUT WITH THAT KIND OF PLATFORM  
I WOULD NOT WANT TO BE RUNNING AGAINST HIM IF HE DID.

3. IT WAS ALSO THOMAS JEFFERSON, OF COURSE, WHO SAID  
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THAT EVERY MAN HAS TWO COUNTRIES, HIS OWN AND FRANCE.

I KNOW THAT MY WIFE AND I HAVE CERTAINLY FELT VERY MUCH AT HOME IN FRANCE THE PAST THREE DAYS. WE ARE DEEPLY GRATEFUL TO THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE FOR THE EXTRAORDINARY WARMTH AND COURTESY OF THE WELCOME ACCORDED US DURING OUR VISIT. IN RETURN, I CAN ONLY TRANSMIT AMERICA'S WISH THAT AS MANY FRENCHMEN AS POSSIBLE VISIT THE UNITED STATES DURING 1976; FOR AMERICANS, TOO, ARE NOTED FOR THE HOSPITALITY AND WARM WELCOME WE TRADITIONALLY ACCORD OUR VISITORS.

4. WE FERVENTLY HOPE THAT THE ENTIRE FRENCH NATION WILL JOIN WITH US IN CELEBRATION OF OUR 200TH BIRTHDAY, NOT ONLY IN SPIRIT, BUT -- IN THE GREATEST NUMBER POSSIBLE -- AS BICENTENNIAL VISITORS TO THE UNITED STATES. FOR AMERICANS THE BICENTENNIAL WILL BE A TIME OF NATIONAL STOCK-TAKING, OF AUTOPSYING THE PAST AND OF CHARTING THE FUTURE. BUT IT WILL NOT BE A TIME FOR SELFISH INTROSPECTION. ON THE CONTRARY, DURING THE BICENTENNIAL PERIOD THE DOORS AND WINDOWS OF THE NATION WILL BE OPENED WIDE TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD AS NEVER BEFORE IN OUR HISTORY. FOR NO ONE LIKES TO CELEBRATE HIS BIRTHDAY ALONE. AMERICA IS A "NATION OF IMMIGRANTS," THE "HALF-BROTHER OF THE WORLD." WE WISH TO INVOLVE IN THE BICENTENNIAL ALL PEOPLES WHICH HAVE MADE A CONTRIBUTION TO THE AMERICAN PAST, OR WHICH HAVE A STAKE IN THE AMERICAN FUTURE. AND NO NATION HAS GREATER CLAIM IN EITHER CATEGORY THAN FRANCE. WE WANT YOU TO SEE FOR YOURSELVES THAT AMERICA'S FUTURE IS BRIGHTER THAN ITS PAST; THAT THE UNITED STATES AT AGE 200, WHILE NEITHER A PERFECT SOCIETY NOR A COMPLACENT ONE, REMAINS THE SAME STRONGHOLD OF INDEPENDENT SPIRIT, ENERGY AND INDIVIDUALISM THAT IT WAS IN 1776; WE WANT TO REASSURE YOU THAT THE AMERICAN EXPERIMENT HAS WORKED, IS WORKING, AND WILL WORK EVEN BETTER IN FUTURE.

5. THANK YOU.  
RUSH

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